

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, cancel claim 3, withdraw claims 7-14 and add claims 15-19 as follows.

1 1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for preparing
2 tax returns comprising:
3 obtaining, by a computer system, identification data identifying a
4 taxpayer's employer;
5 determining, by the computer system via communication over a
6 communications network with a tax data provider associated with the
7 taxpayer's employer, using the identification data and providing
8 taxpayer authentication data to the tax data provider, that tax data
9 about the taxpayer is available from ~~[[a]]~~ the tax data provider
10 ~~associated with the taxpayer's employer~~;
11 electronically retrieving, from the tax data provider, the tax data about the
12 taxpayer; and
13 electronically preparing a tax return for the taxpayer using the retrieved
14 tax data.

1 2. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,
2 wherein the identification data identifying the taxpayer's employer is an
3 employer identification number (EIN).

1 3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,
2 wherein determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:
3 querying a plurality of tax data providers with the identification data to
4 determine which of the tax data providers are associated with the
5 taxpayer's employer.

1 5. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,
2 wherein determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:
3 identifying a plurality of employers providing tax data electronically; and
4 determining, using the identification data identifying the taxpayer's
5 employer, whether the taxpayer's employer provides tax data
6 electronically.

1 6. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,
2 further comprising electronically filing the tax return with a taxing authority.

1 7. - 14. (Withdrawn)

1 15. (New) A computer program product for preparing tax returns, the
2 computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium and
3 including program code to cause a computer system to carry out the steps of:
4 obtaining identification data identifying a taxpayer's employer;
5 determining, via communication over a communications network with a
6 tax data provider associated with the taxpayer's employer, using the
7 identification data and providing taxpayer authentication data to the
8 tax data provider, that tax data about the taxpayer is available from
9 the tax data provider;

10 retrieving, from the tax data provider, the tax data about the taxpayer; and
11 preparing a tax return for the taxpayer using the retrieved tax data.

1 16. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
2 identification data identifying the taxpayer's employer is an employer
3 identification number (EIN).

1 17. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein
2 determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:
3 querying a plurality of tax data providers with the identification data to
4 determine which of the tax data providers are associated with the
5 taxpayer's employer.

1 18. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein
2 determining that tax data about the taxpayer is available comprises:
3 identifying a plurality of employers providing tax data electronically; and
4 determining, using the identification data identifying the taxpayer's
5 employer, whether the taxpayer's employer provides tax data
6 electronically.

1 19. (New) The computer program product of claim 15, further
2 comprising electronically filing the tax return with a taxing authority.